

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sling for the purpose of attaching or carrying loads, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising a tube fabric (4) or a tube-like fabric, or knit, ~~exhibits~~ exhibiting two ends (5, 6), one of which is embodied so as to be narrower or approximately of equal size and the other is embodied so as to be broader or of equal size relative to the rest of the tubular fabric, which is found between the ends, ~~that wherein~~ the two ends ~~(5, 6)~~ form a connection site (7) ~~in that wherein~~ the narrower end (5) is extant, inserted into the broader end (6), into each other [sic] and exhibits, in the area of the connection site (7), at least one seam (8), which connects both ends (5, 6), as a result of which the connection site (7), is embodied, for a prescribed strength, more thinly, shorter, or more narrowly than in the case of overlapping ends of the customary type.

2. (Currently Amended) A sling according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sling exhibits, on the upper and lower surfaces ~~(15, 15')~~, a connection site (7) that is 50% thinner, with a smaller transition of the two ends (5, 6) than is the case with overlapping ends of the customary type.

3. (Currently Amended) A sling according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the connection site (7) of the two ends (5, 6), which are inserted into each other and as a result of the sewing together of the two ends (5, 6), which are

joined within each other to two fabrics each instead of one fabric each, exhibits a substantially higher tensile strength at the connection site.

4. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—3,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the connection site ~~(7)~~ of the two ends ~~(5, 6),~~
which are inserted into one another, whereby one end ~~(6)~~ is a tube and the other end
~~(5)~~ is an inelastic, a partially elastic, or an elastic band, that the sewing together of
the ends exhibits a higher tensile strength and a slighter thickening at the connection
site.

5. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—4,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric ~~(4),~~ at at least one other site,
is embodied in the cross-section more thinly or narrowly relative to the remaining
tubular fabric and as a result, exhibits at least one narrow area or one narrow site
~~(9).~~

6. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric ~~(4)~~ is embodied at at least
one site as a band and at at least one site as a cord and that these sites are aligned
in random sequence next to each other and they allow themselves to be connected
by means of insertion.

7. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—6,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric ~~(4)~~ exhibits drawstrings ~~(11)~~
that lie freely within the tubular fabric, so that the tubular fabric serves as a protective
mantle against ~~[sharp]~~ sharp edges and cuts.

8. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—7,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric (4) is elastic and the
drawstrings (11) are inelastic, or ~~that~~ wherein the tubular fabric (4) is inelastic and
the drawstrings (11) are elastic.

9. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—8,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric (4), in the narrow area (9), is
embodied as a cord.

10. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—9,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric (4) is comprised of a
combination of materials that are distinct with respect to elasticity, expansion
behavior, resistance to being cut, resistance to tearing and resistance to abrasion, as
a result of which an optimum of tensile strength, resistance to abrasion and ability to
resist being cut is given in conjunction with low weight.

11. (Currently Amended) A sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tubular fabric (4) is comprised of a
combination of highly strong fibers of Dyeema, Kevlar, aramide, polyester and
polyamide.

12. (Currently Amended) The use of the sling according to ~~one of the~~
~~claims 1—11~~ claim 1 in the sport of climbing.

13. (Currently Amended) The use of the sling according to ~~one of the~~
~~claims 1—11~~ claim 1 as a climbing sling or a stopping sling in the area of
occupational safety.

14. (Currently Amended) The use of the sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—11~~ claim 1 for a ski pole or for a ski and snowboard binding.

15. (Currently Amended) The use of the sling according to ~~one of the claims 1—11~~ claim 1 for a knapsack support belt.